

In the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) ~~In a~~ A method for separation of a volume of fluid containing red blood cells ~~and~~ of about 30-64 hematocrit from a solution including shed blood, washing fluid, and an anticoagulant by sedimentation and without centrifugation, comprising:

collecting shed blood from a patient;

adding to the shed blood an ~~the improvement wherein said anticoagulant that~~ consists essentially of an inert anticoagulant selected from the group consisting of CPD and heparin;

adding to the solution of shed blood and anticoagulant a washing solution;

allowing a volume of fluid containing red blood cells to separate from the solution by sedimentation without centrifugation; and

removing the red blood cells from the solution and re-infusing them into the patient.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said inert anticoagulant is CPD.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said CPD is mixed with said blood at a ratio of one part CPD and up to fifteen parts blood.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said inert anticoagulant is heparin.

5. (Cancelled) In a method for separating a volume of fluid containing red blood cells and of about 30-64 hematocrit from a solution including shed blood and an anticoagulant by sedimentation and without centrifugation, the improvement wherein

said anticoagulant consists essentially of an anticoagulant selected from the group consisting of CPD and heparin.

6. (Currently Amended) A method for washing shed blood comprising the steps of

collecting shed blood from a patient;

providing said blood with an inert anticoagulant selected from the group consisting of CPD and heparin; ;

mixing said blood with a washing solution; ~~and~~

allowing a volume of fluid containing red blood cells and of about 30-64 hematocrit to separate from said washing solution by sedimentation without centrifugation; and

re-infusing the red blood cells into the patient.

7. (Original) A method according to claim 6 wherein said inert anticoagulant is CPD.

8. (Original) A method according to claim 7 wherein said washing solution includes a starch solution.

9. (Original) A method according to claim 7 wherein said washing solution includes hetastarch.

10. (Original) A method according to claim 7 wherein said washing solution is 6% hetastarch.

11. (Original) A method according to claim 6 wherein said inert anticoagulant is heparin.

12. (Canceled) A solution comprising blood, anti-coagulant, and a washing solution, wherein said anticoagulant is selected from the group consisting of CPD and heparin.

13. (Canceled) A solution according to claim 12 wherein said washing solution comprises starch.

14. (Canceled) A solution according to claim 13 wherein said starch is hetastarch.

15. (Canceled) A solution consisting essentially of blood, an inert anticoagulant, and a washing solution.

16. (Canceled) A solution according to claim 15 wherein said inert anticoagulant is CPD.

17. (Canceled) A solution according to claim 15 wherein said inert anticoagulant is heparin.

18. (Canceled) A solution according to claim 15 wherein said blood is a sediment layer of blood.

19. (Canceled) A solution according to claim 18 wherein said sediment layer contains a majority of the red blood cells of said blood.

20. (Canceled) A solution according to claim 19 wherein said sediment layer is about 30-64 Hematocrit.

21. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 1 wherein the period for said sedimentation is about twenty minutes.

22. (Cancelled) A method according to claim 5 wherein the period for said

sedimentation is about twenty minutes.

23. (Previously presented) A method to claim 6 wherein the period for said sedimentation is about twenty minutes.